FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 MAY 1984

Gulf Crisis

The Arab League Council, in its emergency session in Tunis, approved a resolution condemning the bombing of Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers by Iran, demanded that the latter desist from attacking ships traveling to and from GCC ports, and urged the UN Security Council and the international community to take "firm and clear" stands to prevent a recurrence of such "acts of aggression," SPA reported. The Council also decided to hold the 13th Arab summit conference in Saudi Arabia in November.

At the meeting, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, in a speech reported by SPA, denounced the "flagrant military aggression" undertaken by Iran, stating that it is no longer possible to remain a "spectator" with regard to the Gulf war. The Kuwaiti foreign minister described Iran's "aggressive behavior" as being calculated to draw "major states and powers" into the conflict, according to KUNA. The Kuwaiti minister stressed that he will not invite the superpowers to intervene in the Gulf, noting that the GCC countries are engaged in "intensive" defense coordination, the agency reported.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz described the Council session as "successful," citing in particular the condemnation of Iran's "aggression," according to INA.

Following the session, an Arab League delegation including the Iraqi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers departed for Japan, INA disclosed, for talks with Japanese officials on ways to end the Iran-Iraq war through negotiations, the agency added. Meanwhile, Iran's Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio, warned neighboring countries in the Persian Gulf not to enter the Iran-Iraq war and served notice on the "superpowers" that Iran would prepare for war "throughout the world" against the interests of any country which sets foot in the Gulf. The Majlis speaker also warned of the possibility of an "extremely momentous development" in the region, advising the nation to prepare for a difficult and possibly prolonged "jihad" which, when victorious, would assure Islam's greatness throughout the world.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) issued a statement broadcast by Tehran radio in which it pledged to "eradicate criminal America" from the Gulf region should it engage in "warmongering" in the area and warned that U.S. intervention would cause the IRGC to target the interests of all those involved in the "conspiracy" against Iran. The statement called on the "billion-strong Islamic ummah" to "endanger" Western interests throughout the world in the event of continued U.S. intervention. However, IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i asserted that the United States is "not in a position" to risk direct intervention and deploy military forces, according to IRNA.

In a related development, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in comments reported by Tehran radio and IRNA, reiterated his warning that insecurity for the Iranian oil routes would lead to insecurity for all other oil routes, observing that it would be "irrational" to expect Iran to let other countries in the region export their oil while Iran was unable to do so. While voicing doubt that "other powers" would intervene in the Gulf after their experience in Lebanon, he stated that Iran's policy was to respond to any blow with a stronger one.

An editorial in the Iranian newspaper *KEYHAN* reported by IRNA asked why Iran had to be patient and watch the "hostile cooperation" between Iraq and Kuwait when Iranian planes "can easily overfly Kuwaiti installations." The editorial noted the "hostile attitude" of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and stated that the Iranian people expect their leaders to show their determination to stop the hostile acts of their neighbors.

In Iraq First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan stated that the "siege" imposed on Iran will be "expanded" in the next 3 months, according to INA. Ramadan claimed that Iranian oil exports have declined by 55 percent as a result of the Iraqi blockade.

Both Tehran and Baghdad radios reported that a merchant ship, the *Fidelity*, sank in the northern part of the Gulf after being hit in an Iraqi missile attack on 18 May. According to sources in Lloyd's shipping company cited by Baghdad radio, the vessel was of Panamanian registry and was headed for Bandar-e Khomeyni with a cargo of steel.

Lebanon

Israeli Raid — Israeli warplanes attacked a "terrorist" base in the Al-Biqa' region used by extremist groups under Iranian influence, the IDF spokesman announced on 20 May in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio. He said all the Israeli planes returned safely to base after scoring precise hits on their target, located in the Janta region east of Riyaq. Voice of Lebanon radio said that arms depots and a camp housing Hezbollah gunmen were destroyed and also cited an unconfirmed report that the Israeli aircraft bombed a SAM base in the area. Antiaircraft fire was directed at the Israeli planes, according to the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio. Monitored Syrian media have not been heard to mention the raid.

Security in Sidon, Beirut — An IDF soldier was wounded when an IDF convoy was ambushed in the Sidon region on 20 May, the IDF spokesman disclosed in an announcement carried by ITIM. In an earlier attack in Sidon, an IDF soldier was wounded but managed to kill his assailant, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, the IDF continued to patrol and search for weapons inside the nearby 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp, the

radio noted. An UNRWA spokesman cited by Jerusalem television revealed that 3 people were killed and 29 others were wounded in recent clashes in the camp, whose inhabitants staged a protest march against the Israelis on 18 May, according to Beirut radio.

In Beirut the situation was relatively calm over the weekend after shelling which killed or wounded 15 people in the western sector on 18 May, Beirut radio reported. Voice of Lebanon blamed gunmen in West Beirut for provoking the violence.

Political Developments — The Cabinet approved the draft policy statement "with all its points and principles," Prime Minister Rashid Karami stated in remarks broadcast by Voice of Arab Lebanon after a 19 May Cabinet meeting in Bikfayya. The statement, which is the basis on which the government will seek a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies, stresses the need for security arrangements that will lead to an Israeli withdrawal from the south and calls for the establishment of a Lebanese security force to fill the vacuum caused by such a withdrawal, according to Voice of Lebanon. The Cabinet statement also deals with political, administrative, and legislative reforms, the radio added. During his visit to Bikfayya to attend the meeting, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt held talks with Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram aimed at consolidating the cease-fire in Beirut, according to the clandestine PSP and Phalangist radios, Voice of the Mountain and Radio Free Lebanon.

In Syria President Hafiz al-Asad indicated his willingness to recognize Israel's demand for security guarantees as a condition for withdrawing the IDF from Lebanon, asserting in an interview with a British paper reported by Jerusalem radio that Lebanon could guarantee to maintain the security of its southern border on the condition that the Lebanese Army would be solely responsible for such arrangements and that there would be no IDF presence on Lebanese soil.

PLO Affairs

After meeting in Moscow with Karen Brutents, the deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf characterized his talks as being held in a "frank, sincere, and comfortable atmosphere" and focused on the PLO's internal situation, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported. While reaffirming the Fatah leadership's desire to reestablish "natural" relations with Syria, Khalaf indicated that the Syrians are still displaying a "negative attitude" and attempting to impose conditions that the Fatah-PLO leaders cannot accept. Khalaf also denied that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the transfer of the PLO and Fatah apparatus to Cairo but confirmed that the Palestine Research Center will be transferred to the Egyptian capital.

Meanwhile, after the conclusion of the second round of talks between Fatah officials and representatives of the PFLP and DFLP in Algiers, a PLO statement carried by Algiers radio said the meeting had achieved "advanced steps" toward a comprehensive agreement, adding that a third round of intra-Palestinian talks will be held in Aden the first week of June to complete discussion of outstanding issues. 'Arafat's visit to Egypt was a major subject of discussion at the Algiers meeting, according to Amman's *AR-RA'Y*.

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Foreign Ministry Scores Bush Tour, U.S. 'Interference'

LD210936 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0452 GMT 21 May 84

[Announcement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

[Text] With the expansion and successful broadening of revolutionary process in free, democratic, progressive, and prosperous Afghanistan, the gains of our people toward the construction of a new society and the crushing of the agents of counterrevolution is becoming greater every day. In that same proportion, the indignation of the enemies of our homeland, who for more than 6 years have been trying in vain to block the path of revolution in our country, is being increased. As a result, international imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, the main organizer of the undeclared war against our country in collusion with the Chinese expansionist leadership, Pakistani militarists, and reactionaries in the region are adding to their efforts toward strengthening the unholy imperialist, hegemonist, and reactionary ranks against the DRA in order to continue intensifying armed aggression and psychological war against our country and people. Therefore, the Reagan administration attaches great importance to using Pakistan as a springboard for U.S. imperialism, and accordingly the militarists have prepared the ground by establishing more than 100 military training camps for bandits on the territory of that country; training, equipping, and arming thousands of deceived counterrevolutionary elements for murder and subversion, and sending them to the sacred soil of our homeland.

The Reagan administration — which has recently been very anxious because of the shattering blows dealt by the our heroic people and courageous Armed Forces — in addition to putting increased pressure on Pakistan, is trying to secure the solidarity of the so-called free world with the regime of Ziaul Haq as a base of struggle against democratic and progressive forces, particularly for the continuation of armed aggression against the DRA. Thus, it is not without reason that the collaborators and followers of Washington — like the prime ministers of Malaysia, Japan, and Turkey; the president of China; and the Saudi Arabian prince — one after the other have been paying visits to Pakistan in recent days.They tour the so-called refugee camps; they are in a race with each other to concoct falsehoods and slanders against the DRA and to distort the essence of the Soviet Union's fraternal aid to our people. They try to give the name of mujahidin to a handful of sold-out counterrevolutionary elements.

In line with such visits and in order to accomplish these tasks, U.S. Vice President George Bush recently came to Pakistan, visited the military training camps of counterrevolutionaries, met with the heads of the counterrevolutionary bands, and, making provocative and interfering statements against our people, country, and revolution, promised $15 million — in addition to hundreds of millions of dollars in secret and open aid by the Pentagon and CIA — in so-called humanitarian aid to counterrevolutionary elements against a UN member state with full rights.

During his stay in Pakistan, George Bush also tried, by promising aid, to encourage the military government of that country to give decisive and more-active aid to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries and still further link Islamabad to the Washington-Beijing axis against the DRA. It was due to this matter that Bush promised the military regime of Pakistan to supply it with more political and military aid from the United States — which includes the supply of more advanced American weapons, the price of which reaches billions of dollars; and prepared the ground for the formation of new military bases and the stationing of U.S. Armed Forces in the territory of Pakistan.

The statements and measures of the U.S. vice president during his stay in Pakistan once again proved that the intensification of the situation around Afghanistan still remains the main strategic goal of American in southwest Asia, and the claim of the Reagan administration that Washington wants a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan is a deceptive action that has been undertaken to cover the aggressive aims of the United States in the region. It is clear now to all the people of the world that the United States is directly responsible for the continuation of the present situation in Afghanistan and, by putting pressure on Pakistan, is preventing a just and political solution. The U.S. allies in the NATO aggressive bloc, also by following the United States, on the one hand actively take part in the undeclared war against the DRA, and on the other hand, by open deception, try to present facts in a distorted manner.

The recent declaration by the EEC foreign ministers, in which sympathy has been expressed for the plight of the people of Afghanistan, is an example of such hypocritical deeds. By shedding crocodile tears, they want to conceal from international public opinion the fact that the United States and its allies and collaborators are directly responsible for the sufferings of the people of Afghanistan. However, America and its allies cannot further hide the main essence of their aggressive designs in the region. George Bush's visit showed clearly that the United States is determined not only to give new dimensions to aggression and interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, but by expanding its military presence in the region, for which the self-made situation around Afghanistan has been identified as a good pretext, to threaten the peace and security of the people in this region.

In this connection, the efforts of George Bush in New Delhi — where he wanted to explain the militarist policy of America and the arming of Pakistan more than is needed for its defense under the pretext of events in Afghanistan and the so-called Soviet threat — were not only hypocritical, but were ludicrous. It is difficult to deceive the people of the world from realizing that now Pakistan has been transformed into an American base for the destabilization of those countries in the region who do not conform with the thinking of Washington. The flood of advanced U.S. weapons to Pakistan is only for the purpose of threatening the security of the neighbors of that country, undoubtedly including peaceful India.

The people of the world know very well that the statement of the Reagan administration concerning the so-called Afghanistan question, of which that administration is the creator, is only a pretext for covering the aggressive aims of the United States in southwest Asia and the Middle East, in which Pakistan has undertaken a major role.

The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while severely condemning the provocative visit of the U.S. vice president to Pakistan, explicitly points out that any kind of conspiracy, interference, and aggression by imperialism, hegemonism, and reaction is not able to prevent the realization of the humanitarian and noble aims of the national and democratic April Revolution and its new development stage in Afghanistan. The courageous people of our country who, under the leadership of the PDPA, are engaged in revolutionary work and struggle toward the construction of a new society in their country, are (?able) to rebuff counterrevolutionary agents and give crushing blows to every kind of aggression and interference in the internal affairs of their country.

Security Forces' Operations in Provinces Noted

LD201733 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto and Dari 1530 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] As a result of operations carried out in Parvan Province a number of counterrevolutionary elements were killed and a number of them arrested. The security forces seized 14 DShK's with 11,450 rounds of ammunition, 115 antitank mines, 68 hand grenades, 2 ammunition dumps, 7 foodstuff depots, a number of radios, 16 rocket launchers and a quantity of assorted weapons from these criminals. A hideout belonging to the so-called Islamic Band was also destroyed.

During similar security forces operations a number of traitors were killed in Shulgareh village of Balkh Province. Security forces seized DShK's, 1 rocket launcher, and 11 various kinds of weapons.

A number of counterrevolutionary elements were killed as a result of operations carried out in Marjeh area of Helmand Province. A quantity of weapons were seized and one recoilless gun, one vehicle, one motorcycle, and a number of enemy documents, together with their hideout, were destroyed.

Two leaders of a counterrevolutionary band and eight of its members were killed in (Alab Khan) region of Greshk District. Security forces seized one rocket launcher and nine weapons from these murderers.

According to another report, a number of counterrevoluntionary elements were arrested and a number of them killed in security forces operations in Ghowr Province. Security forces seized 3 boxes of mortar shells, a quantity of weapons, 1 mortar, 1 heavy machine gun, 1 DShK with 2,000 rounds, 3 rocket launchers, 2 cameras, and a number of antistate leaflets that prove their links with counterrevolutionary bands abroad who are the servants of U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, and reaction in the region.

Another report says that a number of counterrevolutionary elements were killed and a quantity of weapons captured in successful operations by the country's security forces in (Dehmalan) and Sar Jangal areas of Herat Province.

Similarly, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were killed and a number of them wounded in operations by the country's vigilant security forces in Konarha Province.

Mujahidin Take Strategic Town Near Jalalabad

OW191941 Hong Kong AFP in English 1908 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Islamabad, May 19 (AFP) — Resistance fighters in Afghanistan today claimed to have "liberated" an important Afghan town in eastern Nangarhar Province and captured arms and ammunition from the Soviet-backed regime's troops in a fierce encounter last Wednesday.

According to the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) news agency, during the 20-hour battle, 20 Afghan soldiers were taken prisoner in Chapliar Khwar County, strategically located close to the Afghan garrison town of Jalalabad.

Chapliar Khwar had previously been an Afghan Army headquarters, and the current regime's troops had been using it as a (?watchpost to) prevent guerrillas entering the town and Jalalabad airport. The rebels had carried out repeated attacks on Jalalabad airport in the past but had always met resistance from Chapliar Khwar base. AIP said Chapliar Khwar had long been a rebel "target" and the mujahidin victory this week would now help them in "unhindered" ambushes at the airport and Jalalabad itself.

The rebels surprised the government troops in Chapliar Khwar because of the continuing fighting in the Panjsher valley mobilising a large number of Soviet troops, the agency said.

Chapliar Khwar fell to the resistance on Thursday, the agency said, adding that the "the whole county has been liberated."

The guerrillas said they had captured 50 rifles, two mortars, and two wireless sets, besides some 30,000 rounds from the surrendering troops.

The attack follows orders from the main resistance alliances to their guerrillas to intensify attacks on important Afghan installations in order to release the pressure on the mujahidin in the Panjsher valley.

Colombo Request for Tamil Separatists Rejected

BK181626 Hong Kong AFP in English 1613 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] New Delhi, May 18 (AFP) — A top Indian state official today rejected a request from Colombo that it hand over Sri Lankan separatists sheltering in India, saying that they could not be handed over to be "butchered," press reports said.

M.G. Ramachandran, chief minister of the southern state Tamil Nadu, told an election meeting in Madras that Colombo was squarely to blame for the Tamil separatists fleeing the island republic, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

Lalith Athulathmudali, Sri Lankan minister for national security, had said on Tuesday that those responsible for acts of terrorism, including the abduction of an American couple last week, should be handed over to Sri Lanka. Mr. Ramachandran said the Tamil youths who had taken refuge in India were not terrorists.

Unless Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene took the initiative to create conditions for Tamils to live peacefully in his nation, Sri Lankan Tamils would continue to pour into Tamil Nadu, which would have to provide them shelter, he said according to PTI.

Rasgotra Departs for Talks in Pakistan

BK191635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr M. Rasgotra, heading a 6-member official team, left New Delhi for Islamabad this evening. He will be resuming talks tomorrow on India's draft on a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation and Pakistan's draft on a nonaggression pact. Mr Rasgotra told our correspondent at the airport that he will discuss several matters with the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Niaz Naik. He will work on finding out steps for strengthening good neighborliness and cooperation between the two countries.

Reports on Rioting in Maharashtra Region

Curfew in Bombay, Bhiwandi

BK191626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The Army units called out to assist civilian authorities at Bhiwandi near Bombay have taken over charge of the riot-affected areas. The state chief minister, Mr Vasantrao Patil, who visited Bhiwandi town, said the curfew has been extended till tomorrow morning following reports of violence between the two communities. Talking to newsmen, he regretted that poor people from both communities residing in slums at Bhiwandi suffered equally during the riots. The state has already undertaken relief measures to rehabilitate the riot-affected people. The chief minister expressed the hope that the intensification of patrolling by the Army and police will help in restoring normalcy in the town.

The special home secretary of Maharashtra, Mr B.K. Chougule, told newsmen in Bombay today that the death toll in the riots in Bhiwandi, central Bombay, and Thane city during the last 2 days reached 62 today. Meanwhile, as a precautionary measure, dusk-to-dawn curfew has been clamped in the central Bombay area.

All India Congress-I Committee general secretary, Mr Chandulal Chandrakar, and the union minister of state for railways, Mr Jaffer Sherif, today visited the riot-affected areas and relief centers set up by the government. The Shiv Sena chief, Mr Bal Thakre, has appealed to the people to call off their agitation.

The prime minister has expressed concern about the situation in Bhiwandi and Bombay. Mrs Gandhi has deputed the home minister, Mr Sethi, to rush to these places for making an on-the-spot study of the situation.

Sethi Tours Riot Areas

BK201317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The home minister, Mr Sethi, today visited the riot-affected areas of Bhiwandi in Maharashtra. He was accompanied by the chief minister, Mr Vasantrao Patil, and the predesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr Kamble. Mr Sethi told our Bombay correspondent that he would submit his report first to the prime minister before making any statement. The home minister has since returned to the capital.

The situation in Bhiwandi and Thane is reported to be under control. No untoward incident has been reported from these towns since last evening.

The deputy minister for information and broadcasting, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, has said that antisocial and communal elements have been trying to fan trouble in Maharashtra. Talking to newsmen in Bombay today, he alleged that these elements are trying to incite trouble for their selfish motives.

Gandhi Tours Region

BK210749 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, who arrived in Bombay this morning on a day's visit to the riot-affected areas of Maharashtra, immediately proceeded to Bhiwandi by helicopter. Mrs Gandhi is accompanied by the Congress-I general secretary, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; Maharashtra Governor I.H. Latif, and the state chief minister, Mr Vasantrao Patil. From Bhiwandi the prime minister will visit Thane before reaching Bombay in the afternoon to visit the riot-hit areas in the city.

Meanwhile, the state home secretary, Mr B.K. Chougle, told newsmen in Bombay this morning that no untoward incident has been reported in Bombay since 0400 today. The situation in Bhiwandi is also quiet. He said the death toll in the riots and the police firing has now risen to 87. The state government has rushed 20,000 liters of milk along with food articles and relief materials to Bhiwandi.

Gandhi Addresses Bhiwandi Citizens

BK210912 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, has said that the main need of the hour in the riot-affected areas is to restore normalcy and peace. She was addressing a citizen's meeting at Bhiwandi today.

The prime minister said there is a need to create confidence and a sense of security in the minds of the people belonging to various communities and religions. She warned that there are elements both within and outside the country which are bent upon inciting trouble in every part of the country. She said people should be vigilant against such divisive forces. The tension and clashed hamper the economy and progress of the country. There are forces always eager to create hurdles in the country's progress, the prime minister warned. She appealed to the press to avoid publishing material which would hamper the cause of the unity of the country.

Mrs Gandhi, who is accompanied by the Congress-I general secretary, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; the Maharashtra governor, Mr I.H. Latif; and the state chief minister, Mr Vasantrao Patil, visited later relief centers at Bhiwandi set up by the state government for the riot-affected people. She talked to the people who suffered in the riots. She also visited a farmhouse outside Bhiwandi town where 20 people were reported to have been killed in the riots. Mrs Gandhi also met a number of delegations of local people.

From Bhiwandi, the prime minister has reached Thane from where she will go to Bombay and will visit the riot-affected areas in the city.

Unrest Continues in Punjab, Jammu, Kashmir

OW201853 Hong Kong AFP in English 1842 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] New Delhi, May 20 (AFP) — A state official was shot at and seriously injured by terrorists in Patiala town of troubled Punjab State today, according to PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI).

The shooting appeared to be an act of retaliation. The official, Balwant Ram, had been an eyewitness to the shooting of another Hindu by Sikh terrorists last month.

Meanwhile, tension mounted in the Sikh holy town of Amritsar for some time today as security officials and some persons exchanged a shot each near the famous Golden Temple. No one was injured. According (?to a report) from Jammu and Kashmir State adjacent to Punjab, an unsuccessful attempt was made to blow up a bridge over a stream in Jammu town. One person crossing the bridge was killed. Official sources said the hand of Punjab extremists or Pakistani saboteurs could not be ruled out. A PTI report from Calcutta, meanwhile, quoted Federal Minister of State for Home Affairs P. Venkatasubbiah as saying the Government of India had reports that arms and ammunition being used by terrorists in Punjab were smuggled in from outside the country.

Claiming that extremist activities in Punjab had been curbed "to a great extent," he said: "Much more is to be done."

Kashmir Police Arrest 17

BK181618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The Kashmir police have arrested about 17 persons who are said to be responsible for the recent bomb explosion in the Kashmir valley. Disclosing this to newsmen in Srinagar today, a police spokesman said they have recovered some arms and ammunition from these persons. He said that these persons were responsible for writing threatening letters to various persons.

Byelections Polling Held in 12 States

BK200916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Polling has begun for byelections to 20 assembly constituencies spread over 12 states. About 20 lakh voters are expected to exercise their franchise.

Elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure free and fair polling; 145 candidates belonging to various political parties and independents are in the field.

The polling will cover two constituencies each in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal; four in Tamil Nadu; three in Bihar; and one each in Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan. The counting will begin tomorrow morning and most of the results are expected by the evening.

Electioneering in three assembly constituencies in Kerala and one constituency in Nagaland ended yesterday afternoon. Polling in these constituencies will be held tomorrow.

Polling Ends 'Peacefully'

BK201313 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Polling ended peacefully this evening in the byelections to 20 assembly constituencies spread over 12 states. First reports speak of moderate to brisk polling from almost all the constituencies. The counting will begin tomorrow morning and most of the results are expected by evening.

One hundred and forty-five candidates were in the fray. The polling covered two constituencies each in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal; four in Tamil Nadu; three in Bihar; and one each in Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.

Meanwhile, the stage is set for tomorrow's byelections in 2 assembly constituencies and 50 polling stations in Parur constituency of Kerala and in 1 constituency in Nagaland.

Zia Sees Bush Off, Assesses Results of Visit

BK181546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The American vice president, Mr George Bush, and Mrs Bush were accorded a very warm send-off when they left Lahore for Oman this afternoon following a 4-day official visit to Pakistan. The president and Mrs Mohammad Ziaul Haq bade them farewell at the airport. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Punjab Governor Lieutenant General Ghulam Jilani Khan, provincial ministers, the mayor of Lahore, federal and provincial councillors, and senior officials were present at the airport to see the visitors off. Prior to their departure, they were presented with video and audio cassettes and a photo album related to their engagements.

After seeing Bush off, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq told newsmen that the successful visit by the U.S. vice president will not only develop our bilateral relations further, but also enhance coordination of our viewpoints on the international level. He said relations between Pakistan and the United States are based on equality and sovereignty. He described his talks with Bush as very useful and cordial. He said they had a detailed exchange of views on bilateral relations, the regional situation, and international issues, and our views on a number of issues were found to be identical. In reply to a question, the president said the agreement on the purchase of arms and economic aid from the United States is being implemented properly.

Naik Begins Meetings With Indian Foreign Secretary

Rasgotra Arrives in Islamabad

BK200948 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Pakistan and India resume their formal talks at the foreign secretary level in Islamabad this morning. They are expected to hold five rounds of talks. Indian Foreign Secretary M.K. Rasgotra and his Pakistani counterpart, Niaz A. Naik, have said the two countries share the desire to develop peaceful and good-neighborly relations and cooperation between them.

Talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport last night, the Indian foreign secretary said he will exchange views with his Pakistani counterpart on Pakistan's proposal for a nonaggression pact and the Indian proposal for a treaty of friendship and cooperation, in addition to discussion of matters of common interest, especially various aspects of bilateral relations. The Indian prime minister, government, and people seriously desire to establish good-neighborly and friendly relations and cooperation on a larger scale. When asked to comment on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's statement that Pakistan has launched an offensive to establish peaceful relations with India, he said India welcomes Pakistan's steps and it is ready to meet Pakistan more than half way in this regard. He said: This is a friendly offensive to an objective shared by the two countries.

On this occasion, the Pakistani foreign secretary said: Our aim is to continue the work toward promoting, strengthening, and consolidating good-neighborly relations between Pakistan and India. He said his talks with Rasgotra are a link in the series of Indian-Pakistani consultations at the foreign secretary level. He expressed the hope that the talks will be meaningful and useful, and that they will give further expression to the desire of the two countries to continue the task of promoting peaceful and good-neighborly relations.

Naik, Rasgotra View Talks

BK201602 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Two rounds of formal talks between Pakistan and India at the foreign secretary level were held in Islamabad today. The Pakistani delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Niaz A. Naik, while Indian Foreign Secretary M.K. Rasgotra led his country's delegation. The two foreign secretaries were assisted by their senior aides.

Talking to Radio Pakistan's representative, Pakistan's foreign secretary said the talks were held in an extremely cordial atmosphere and are moving in a direction which will be of great importance to relations between the two countries. He said he and his Indian counterpart have signed two agreements constituting a major step toward promotion of tourism and which will help increase the movement of people from one country to another.

Indian Foreign Secretary M.K. Rasgotra told our representative that the talks were progressing very well and he was happy to say that the matters they had discussed today were very important for the two countries. He said the two sides are striving to find ways to promote and consolidate existing good relations between the two countries. Most of their talks are devoted to bilateral relations. In reply to a question, he said they also discussed Pakistan's proposal for a nonaggression pact and the Indian proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation.

Official sources told Radio Pakistan's representative that in addition to the two rounds of formal talks, the two foreign secretaries also held talks without their respective aides for an hour. One more round of formal talks will be held tomorrow afternoon, as Mr Rasgotra will go to Moen-Jo-Daro in the morning.

Rasgotra Meets With Zia

BK211727 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The Indian foreign secretary, Mr M.K. Rasgotra, called on the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening and exchanged views with him on matters of bilateral interest. He conveyed to the president personal greetings and regards from the Indian prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi. Mr Rasgotra also delivered a letter of Mrs Gandhi to the president. The foreign secretary, Mr Niaz A. Naik, was also present on the occasion.

Khomeyni Addresses IRGC, Ground Forces Commanders

GF201417 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 84

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni delivered to the commanders of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Ground Forces in Jamaran on 20 May — duration 7 minutes; recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. You brother Guards commanders and the commanders of the army are (?united). You are a united force and this makes me feel proud. [sounds of shouting in the background]

I will never forget you. Whenever I pray, I pray for you. [sounds of shouting by the audience] Be strong, brave, and unafraid of any uproar in the world. Such issues were present at the start of Islam. Such uproar and issues, created by those opposing Islam at the time of the start of Islam, was present at the time of the Holy Prophet and later too. However, the Lord has ordered us not to be weak, to stay strong. Should we persevere, we will receive the Lord's (?blessings). Since you rely on the Lord Almighty, you should not be afraid of anything. Others are relying on Satan and move through his hands. You who move by the power of the Lord are powerful. There is nothing wrong with being in the minority; it is your faith that has to be strong. Thank the Lord, you — all the army, Guards, and other organizations at the fronts — are strong, and since you have faith you should not fear anything, and you don't.

The stories that I hear from the fronts, from our friends there, and exchanges that goes on between them and the Lord Almighty at the fronts are a cause for pride. You should realize that there has been no such Corps or army from the start of Islam until now. People have their shrines in their trenches. They have turned trenches into mosques. You are the ones who have done this. [words indistinct] and you are honored before God. The Lord Almighty gives you power.

As the Holy Prophet progressed towards his goals with a small number, but with the Lord's approval, influencing the world, you who are the followers of that respected being now see that you are influencing the world. You are now victorious, and the reflection of your power can now be seen in White House and the Kremlin. All the powers are afraid of you, so don't be afraid of anyone. All powers have been shaken by the power of Islam, and your work has shaken them. Do not be afraid of any power.

When the Lord is with you, everything is with you. You have the Lord even though you have no support from the East or the West. It is a source of pride for you and for Islam not to lean towards the East or the West and hold to the straight road. The road is that of the Lord. For in the Lord's way neither martyrdom, nor loss of limbs, nor any other trouble a real problem. This is something that the holy messengers have been faced with throughout the course of history since creation. They were not afraid and progressed.

You are the powerful ones today whose fame is spreading throughout the world. Everyone is afraid of you and you are afraid of no one. Be united, like one hand, and invite everyone to unity. Thank God there is unity, so maintain it. So long as you maintain your unity, the Lord will be with you. The Lord's hand is with the people. When you rely on God, the Lord is with you. You may be certain that anyone who has God with him is victorious whether he becomes a martyr or stays alive. God forbid, this is really a prayer for everyone. Whether we become martyrs or victorious, in either case it is victory. May God give you power and [words indistinct]. Peace and blessings be upon you. [crowd chants: God bless the Prophet and all His children]

Remember to convey my greetings to all the people at the fronts and tell them that what I can do is to pray and I am praying for everyone. May God protect you all.

'Fidelity' Sinks in Gulf After Missile Attack

LD191046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 May 84

[From the news headlines]

[Text] Simultaneous with the deep anxiety of the world's political-economic circles about the situation in the Persian Gulf, and at a time when Western circles refer to it as a potentialy dangerous situation, the ship *Fidelity*, which had been hit by missiles, sank today in the Persian Gulf.

Iraqi Aircraft Said Responsible

NC190903 Paris AFP in English 0901 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, May 19 (AFP) — A Panamanian-registered ship, the *Fidelity*, was attacked by Iraqi planes off the Iranian oil terminal at Khark Island, in the northeastern Gulf yesterday, the regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment said today.

The Iraqi aircraft fired missiles at the ship, causing a fire on board, officials of the organization said. They reported that the *Fidelity* was a tanker, but sources in Manama said it was freighter bringing steel to an Iranian port.

The environmental panel said the ship was abandoned by its crew, but gave no details as to the damage on board.

It did not mention reports that another ship had been hit. Yesterday, Iraq said it had hit two vessels south of Khark, but did not identify the ships. Iran denied the Iraqi reports.

Regional Crisis May Spread to Gulf 'Southern Zone'

LD201344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 20 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] A New Threat by the Iraqi Regime in the Persian Gulf is the title of an article published in *KEYHAN*:

Following the expulsion of the last Iraqi aggressive soldiers from the sensitive and strategic regions of Iran and the continuation of the strategy to (?punish) the aggressor by the Islamic Republic

of Iran, the backers of the Saddamist regime and military experts in the West have reached the conclusion that (?despite) all the military aid and political decisions of the West, the East, and the Arab reactionaries, the Saddamist regime is unable to settle the war through an imposed peace of its own.

On the other hand, with the launching of the successful offensives by the Islamic Republic forces on the Iraqi territory and the capturing of certain sensitive sectors, the world quarters which support the Iraqi regime have become increasingly aware that it is possible that Iran may succeed in toppling the Baghdad regime as a result of its extensive offensives on Iraqi soil. Consequently, the Iraqi regime and its global supporters have adopted certain policies aimed at extinguishing the flames of the war in favor of the Iraqi regime. These policies were then focused on a series of threats against the vital interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Among the methods adopted by the Iraqi regime, mention should be made of the receipt of advanced Super Etendard planes, the global clamor about the deterrent powers of such equipment in the Iraq-Iran war, the threat to Khark Island, the threat to launch extensive air and missile attacks on Iranian towns and, finally, the launching of chemical attacks in the war.

However, as the whole world witnessed, these methods failed to transfer the war initiative to the Iraqi regime. The issue of the delivery of Super Etendard planes and the probability of their use against the Iranian oil interests, faced with the reciprocal and strategic threat by Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz, gradually became a normal war phenomenon. Consequently, with the adoption of a retaliation-in-kind tactic by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the second threat made by Iraq became diluted. As for Iraq's chemical attacks, faced with the unprecedented resistance by the Islamic Republic's combatants and the revelations made by Iran at international levels, they were confined to more limited dimensions.

Now the Iraqi regime, in order to free itself from its own critical situation and to make up for past disappointments, is adopting a new method. To make its new method successful Iraq has launched attacks on oil tankers. As far as the Iraqi regime and its Western supporters are concerned, a limited and controlled escalation of the war within the Persian Gulf region as well as the active participation of the countries in the southern zone of the region [keshvarha-ye hozeh janubi in mantaqeh] will, in practice, lead Iran into a confrontation against the collective states of the region; and this very thing would result in the Iran-Iraq war spreading beyond its earlier confines to its becoming a regional one.

Under such circumstances, as far as the West is concerned, the Islamic Republic of Iran will have only two options: One is to submit to the current attempts to establish an imposed peace; and the second is direct confrontation against all the countries of the region and, ultimately, confrontation against great powers' intervention in the region. However, in the midst of all these, and considering the new method adopted by the Iraqi regime in the Persian Gulf, one arrives at the conclusion that Iraq's attacks on oil tankers are part of a policy of threat and intimidation.

Firstly, the Iraqi regime, in assessing its new method and its implementation — which, no doubt, is designed with the collaboration of the great powers as well as the participation and coordination of the reactionary states of the southern zone of the Persian Gulf — imagines that it has adopted tactics that will leave the Islamic Republic of Iran unable to come up with a legitimate reason to put into effect its threat to close the Strait of Hormuz. Attacks against oil tankers at great distances from Khark Island reveals this tactic of the Iraqi regime.

Secondly, it has become clear to the Iraqi regime and its global and regional supporters that a real threat against Khark Island will bring the regional crisis to a point where, besides the insecurity of the Strait of Hormuz, the oil-exporting jetties of the countries in the southern part of the Persian Gulf will also not enjoy the necessary security. This is the type of crisis that the West cannot even imagine under the present circumstances.

It is therefore possible to say that global imperialism and the reactionary countries of the region, under the current circumstances, will follow the latest tactic by Iraq so long as it does not bring strategic and irreparable harm to the security and stability of the region. This is because from the Western point of view the Iraqi regime, due to its clear position in the Persian Gulf region, is not facing a situation whereby global imperialism will sacrifice the entire strategic Persian Gulf region to get it out of the present crisis, even though the fall of the Iraqi regime at the hands of the Islamic Republic of Iran will result in a similar situation in the entire region from the Western point of view. [passage indistinct]

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia Advised

LD201948 Tehran IRNA in English 1930 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA — In its editorial today, the daily English *KEYHAN* international questioned how long the Iranian Muslim people could tolerate their government's good neighbourly attitude towards the hostile states in the Persian Gulf and warned them of military actions by Iran.

The editorial said if Ronald Reagan was lured to intervene in the Persian Gulf, the only thing he could offer to American voters would be the corpses of American soldiers.

The Islamic Republic on various occasions has advised these regimes (in the Persian Gulf) that Iran poses no threat to them... Nevertheless and unfortunately, they have remained deaf to our call for Islamic solidarity and closed their eyes to clear realities. Their cooperation with the Ba'thist dictator in Baghdad has not only ceased, but recently has taken on a new and dangerous form.

Since April 25th when Iraqi planes attacked the Saudi-owned supertanker *Safina al-'Arab*, the Saudis have not protested but have actually aided Zionist-dominated mass media in whipping up a feeling of instability in the region. Kuwait has not behaved in a better or wiser manner.

Seeing this hostile attitude and knowing their total obedience to U.S. policy and Iraqi bribery, the question arises as to what should be the reaction of the Islamic Republic?...How long will the Iranian people allow their leaders to observe the Islamic good neighbour policy? Whatever the answers be, this situation will

not last long. Kuwait and Riyadh, as well as their Western masters, have to be realistic...

When our planes can easily over-fly Kuwaiti installations without confronting any obstacles, why should we be patient and watch the hostile cooperation between Baghdad and Kuwait? At this sensitive juncture...the only thing the Iranian people expect from its leaders is to show their determination in stopping the hostile acts of their neighbours...

If the Strait (of Hormuz) is closed, not only will the oil tankers not pass, but the ships which bring the life necessities for the rich Arab countries will also be halted. Such will be the case if our planes destroy the power stations in these countries. Who thinks that the sheikhs will stay there to suffer the heat without air-conditioning?...

Let us hope that these men and their masters study once more the consequences of their unfriendly attitudes. We believe the time has come for them to put pressure on Baghdad to end its blind acts.

Ronald Reagan knows that in case he is lured to intervene in the Persian Gulf to keep Saddam Husayn in power, the only thing he can offer to American voters would be U.S. soldiers' corpses. What the people will offer him in exchange for his Middle East gift is a firm nyet to his Presidency. Elysee and Buckingham Palace seem to be wise enough to discourage the White House from any cowboy antics.

If the alarming developments are not taken seriously and a collective mistake is made, it goes without saying that a collective price has to be paid. Neither Europe nor Japan or even the United States are ready for such a heavy price.

President Khamene'i Discusses Security in Gulf

LD201648 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA — Speaking on the opening day of the first international seminar on the impact of the oil slick in Persian Gulf here today, President 'Ali Khamene'i said that oil slick in the Persian Gulf caused by the Iraqi missile attack on the Iranian offshore oil weils in March 1983 provided Iran with a great deal of experience.

The oil slick in the Persian Gulf caused by the Iraqi regime was not the first such incident in history; similar incidents have caused greater pollution. While from the standpoint of capping the oil wells it was an exceptional incident, from a propagandistic viewpoint the incident was unprecedented, he said.

The president further told the conference that Iraq was thinking in vain that by spreading the war to the Persian Gulf region, the Iraqi regime could have managed to impose its desired peace on Iran, a peace which would only serve Iraq's interests.

Furthermore, there were other motives behind this attack of the Iraqi forces on Iranian offshore oil wells. One of them was the possibility of blackmailing the Persian Gulf states, through creating fear among them so that they would provide the Iraqi regime with more financial aid and port facilities. To a certain degree the Iraqi regime was successful in this regard, he added. Another reason was that the Iraqi regime, which itself lacked the technical ability to cap the wells, aimed at paving the way for return of American experts to the region.

On the propaganda tirade of superpowers on the issue, he said that the massive propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran was beneficial for the Iraqi regime because it would have masked the effects of the victories gained by the Islamic combatants.

Politically the Iraqi regime could have benefited from the incident by portraying itself as a peace-loving regime and the Islamic Republic of Iran as an opponent of peace. Based on these reasons, he told the conference, the Iraqi regime attacked the Iranian oil wells in Nowruz oil field, as a result of which a number of wells caught fire in the Persian Gulf waters.

On the steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to cap the wells, he said all efforts were used to cap them, but no foreign help which aimed at establishing its domination in the Persian Gulf was sought. The Iraniqn workers and experts were able to control the oil spill in less than two months and prevent further polution in Persian Gulf waters. Therefore the Iraqi regime was prevented from a similar move, he added.

He further stressed the need for technical and scientific self-sufficiency of the countries of the region in preventing water contaimination and polution. The Persian Gulf states, which are the oil producers, should try to mobilise their possibilities to prevent such incidents, so that in case of need they do not turn to foreign sources for assistance.

In this incident, the propaganda apparatus did not state that the wells were attacked by the Iraqi missiles and also kept silent on the Iraqi attack on the ship carrying the Iranian team of experts and workers who were trying to control the spill. In addition the world media kept silent on achievements of the Iranian workers who had managed to control the spillage. This accomplishment of the Iranian experts more than having a political effect was of technical and scientific importance and was a great success, he said.

In another part of his speech, the president said that it was still a question for Iran that why the Iraqi regime has not been condemned for this attack, an attack at a place which was outside the war zone.

Unfortunately, he added, such attacks were being repeated and this time the tankers which are carrying oil from the Khark oil terminal were being hit by the Iraqis, and in one month alone five ships have been attacked. However there was no publicity on the incidents. Even Saudi Arabia did not criticise Iraq for having attacked a Saudi tanker chartered by a shipping company to carry oil from Khark Island. By keeping silent on the incident, the Saudis in fact approved the action.

He further stressed that it was not possible fo the Islamic Republic of Iran to see that its oil remained in the region and others exported theirs freely. "Obviously such an expectation is irrational," he stressed.

Further on the same subject he said that the U.S., which had been aiding the Iraqi regime by its AWACS surveillance planes, France by its planes and the countries in the southern coast of the Persian Gulf who have been aiding the Iraqi regime with all their possibilities should not expect us to allow them to export their oil freely and the Islamic Republic of Iran be deprived of such right.

We have announced that the oil routes in the Persian Gulf are either safe for all or unsafe for all..."If superpowers prevent us from exporting our oil, they too must be deprived of oil," he said. He further warned the U.S. that if it took part in the adventurous games in the Persian Gulf, it would receive a slap far harder than the one it got in Lebanon. No country in the region other than the Islamic Republic of Iran would resist these plots to fiercely.

The next speaker of the session was Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi, who said that the conference provided the Islamic Republic of Iran to exchange views with a number of scientists and without any political connotation.

He further added in life of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Western mass media have never provided Iran with an opportunity to present its view points. Therefore, the conference provided a chance to have contact with Western scientists.

The Tehran University chancellor, Dr. Yazdi Samadi, in his inauguration speech said that the conference was the first scientific move in an international scale following the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Oil Well Capped

GF210830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] In a communique the Ministry of Petroleum has announced that with the efforts of our experts and working brothers of the Ministry of Petroleum, oil well No 10 of Nowruz oilfield, which has been burning for more than 1 year, has now been capped. The oil well was burning 5,000 barrels of oil daily and was spilling another 1,000 barrels into the Gulf. Not only was a part of the underground wealth being lost but the sea was also being contaminated. The capping effort cost less than 500,000 tuman and was undertaken by workers of the (Falaqara) Oil Company. This brave deed was accomplished despite the fact that the capping of oil wells is supposed to be the monopoly of U.S. experts.

In conclusion, the communique expressed the greetings of the Ministry of Petroleum to the leader of the revolution and the Iranian people, and the noble workers of this ministry.

Velayati Warns of Action To Prevent Shipping Attacks

LD191158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpts] Following the initial attacks by Iraq on oil tankers and Foreign Minister Velayati's briefing on this to ambassadors and charges d'affaires in Tehran on 29 March, and the stepping up of attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf by Iraq, Mr Velayati again warned the United Nations secretary general in a note last week of the risks of this aggression.

In addition, an informed source at the Foreign Ministry stated: A week has elapsed since this note was submitted to the United Nations, and there has been not the slightest measure taken by the United Nations. Obviously, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not remain silent in the face of this aggression, but will take necessary measures to prevent them. Responsibility for the consequences of these events, both in law and in regard to international usage, will lie with those who began the attacks on the oil tankers. Therefore, any measures taken in the future in this regard, whether by the United Nations or various countries, that are not aimed at punishing Iraq for perpetrating this deed will not be acceptable under any circumstances to the world community.

Velayati Addresses Diplomats

LD201906 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 20 IRNA — Following the escalation of tension in the Persian Gulf, triggered by Iraq's indiscriminate attacks on ships and tankers in this vital waterway, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a meeting with foreign ambassadors and diplomatic representatives in his ministry today, outlining the situation in the Persian Gulf, explained the position of the Islamic Republic.

The foreign minister said that, due to the extreme sensitivity of the area and its high economic and strategic significance, the Islamic Republic had exerted her best efforts to keep the war from spilling over to the region, and disrupting the flow of oil through this waterway, equally vital for the economy of the regional countries and the world economy.

On the contrary, said Dr. Velayati, the Iraqi regime, ever since the eruption of war has taken every opportunity to spread the flame of the war to the entire region, thus threatening the safety of the international shipping.

Referring to the far-ranging effects of the Iraqi adventurism in the Persian Gulf, Dr. Velayati urged the foreign envoys to remind their respective countries of the obligations resting on the world community of decisively reacting in the face of these aggressions. Excerpts now:

[words indistinct] presently prevailing in the Persian Gulf, and the importance of the maintenance of safety and security of this waterway for international and regional economices, and also because of the decisive role that the Islamic Republic of Iran has to inevitably play to safeguard the security of this waterway, I have invited you to come here in order to once again explain and elucidate the positon of the Islamic Republic of Iran as regards the Persian Gulf and the measures we have taken to this effect.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, first of all because of her own direct interests, and secondly due to her belief in the necessity to maintain the security of this waterway for the stabilization of the growth of world economy, has, since the beginning of the imposed

war, made her best efforts to prevent this fire from spreading to the region. She has also fought back frequent Iraqi aggressions in order to create the necessary conditions for the safe passage of mercantile shipping and economic activities and cooperation of Muslim countries in the region.

In return, since the beginning of its invasion, the Iraqi aggressive regime has taken any opportunity to spread the war to the Persian Gulf. Such an intention of the Iraqi regime became clear to us since the beginning of the imposed war and to the international community, at least, since the Iraqi attack on Nowruz off-shore oil field. If at that time due attention was paid to this important matter and international punishment was enacted to punish Iraq, today we would not be witness to the present dangerous situation.

Repeated Iraqi attacks on mercantile shipping, especially the tankers, are undoubtedly aimed at internationalization of the war, which fact displays such a mentality that is ready to set the whole region afire to maintain the aggression.

Attack on mercantile ships, especially tankers, is a new violation of international regulations, and more important, a substantial step for the internationalization of the war. Another consequence of this aggression is the pollution of the marine environment, which is still another violation of international regulations.

The regime of Iraq as an element which has not abided by any principle and law, and knows of no considerations in carrying out any aggression and mad adventurism, is not only dangerous and disastrous for the region but due to the recent actions it threatens peace and security of the world.

Hence I call upon you all that, with the reflection of these realities in a complete manner, to inform your respective countries of the international obligation which lies with all of us in confronting these aggressions.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD181440 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpts] Millions of Iranians observed Friday prayers today. The congregation in Tehran was addressed by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the convening of the conference of Zionists in Morocco, saying: The extremely regrettable and sad issue which we are facing is constituted by the events in Morocco. A country whose ruler, King Hassan, gives himself the title of chairman of the Committee for the Salvation of Jerusalem, has invited 30 Israeli personalities to convene their Zionist conference in Morocco, and it is said that it took place with the agreement of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and the PLO.

Here Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani recalled: This problem shows how much the heads of these countries are indifferent to the feelings of the people and the interests of the region, but one should say that the prime guilt for such regrettable events lies with their peoples. Had the peoples in these countries — as the Iranian nation has done — reacted toward this problem, such events would never have taken place. This new plot is precisely like the Camp David plot. The only difference is that at the time the Camp David accords were concluded, the Arab countries severed diplomatic relations with Egypt, but today even such a reaction is not taking place, and only the state of Syria is withdrawing its ambassador from Morocco. Indeed, most Arab countries are prepared to have the Zionists rule them, not Islam. Toward this end they are endeavoring to portray Islam to the minds of the people as a grave danger for the security of the region.

The representative of the imam on the Supreme Defense Council devoted the last part of today's second Friday prayers sermon to a review of the problems and recent incidents in the Persian Gulf.

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] Our nation should pay great heed to this problem. Future events (?need to be considered). There is a possibility that an extremely momentous development — the consequences of which we cannot now forsee — has been prepared for our region. In this case the Iranian nation should prepare itself for a prolonged move and an extremely difficult jihad for perhaps a long time; whereupon after our victory in that jihad, Islam would consolidate its greatness throughout the world. [loud and prolonged cheers] For some time now the Iraqi Ba'thist Party has reached the conclusion that war is gradually undermining their bases and that they would be overthrown. Saddam's palpable policy, which the Westerners have admitted as such in their mass media, is to embark on adventurism, so much so as to create a massive disturbance in the region aimed at drowning the region in a vortex; even if Saddam himself were among those drowned, everyone else would either survive the vortex or would be drowned then and there. (?The outcome) of this policy has been amply clear to Saddam for the past few months. With regard to this policy it is evident that the French leadership, the French Socialist Party, is a partner in carrying out this policy, for the Super Etendard aircraft France has given them are one of the important tools for carrying out this policy.

Along with these there are other things which the Soviets have given them and the Western countries and other people have given them, whereby they have prepared themselves for these [words indistinct]. When they wanted to carry out their task we (?warned) that we would close [word indistinct] Island, the Strait of Hormuz; the issue subsided temporarily. Then they prepared themselves for the next round. So they then embarked on the use of chemical weapons. They made great use of chemical weapons and poison gas; but the Islamic Republic, despite the limited size of the Majnun Island battlefield, succeeded in weakening the effect of that weapon and defended itself. We (?diverted) the effect of the chemical weapons toward (?them), and these weapons were more directed toward Saddam, and they were disgraced. The world, as you saw, reacted as it did to this issue. Such a grave deed, such a heinous crime, and the world let it pass with ease, as you saw! This was a global plot and everyone participated in it. Now they have resorted to (?another) trick: 200 km away they struck at oil tankers so that a ship could no longer come to the island. They also prepared the ground so that everyone would understand. The world media came along and magnified the issue in such a way so that ships and oil customers would not come this way. The world's mass media magnified this issue to such an

extent that they instilled fear in the hearts of everyone. What is strange is that they started this with Saudi ships; maybe they thought the people of the world have the brains of animals in their skulls, that they cannot understand these things, issues which are so clear.

First they attacked two ships belonging to Saudi Arabia [words indistinct]. It is clear that if such an event takes place one should show some reaction. If the issue is at all serious their protests should rise to the heavens — as has taken place in recent days. Instead of making a protest, instead of complaining to international organizations — for instance, to the Islamic community [as heard], to the Arab League — Saudi Arabia said nothing. On the contrary, their oil minister, when interviewed, said: How could an aircraft from such a distance determine whose ship it is? They have seen a ship from a long distance and have hit it. If you cite this interview to anyone he will know how ignorant the person is who uttered these words. When we send our aircraft to (?carry out reconnaissance) at sea, the pilots even record the numbers of other aircraft, they even record the numbers of ships; they see everything very clearly. How is it that the Iraqi pilots failed to identify it?

You have your AWACS in the air. They watch our infantry in Khuzestan and pass on their numbers to Iraq. Can they not decide what ship it is and where it has come from? Can they not see the Saudi Arabian flag? Can they not see the sword which is on it?

Our president, the chairman of the Supreme Defence Council, who is the highest official of this country and is authorized to express a view on these issues, officially announced from this place that our policy is: If you wish to block our oil routes or limit them, the oil routes will be closed for all countries in the Gulf. [Shouts of: God is great]

Later, an unidentified aircraft attacked a Kuwaiti ship. There have been many diverse views about this. Its captain said it was an Iranian aircraft; a Czech sailor said no, it was American; other people have said other things. Instead of learning a lesson and refraining from such things, they again attacked two ships in the Persian Gulf near Khark Island, one of which — the *Tabriz* — was ours; and another one, an oil tanker, belonged to Panama.

Unidentified aircraft attacked another Saudi ship. Seven ships have been attacked there: Three of them belong to Saudi Arabia, two of them belong to Kuwait, one belongs either to Panama or Greece, and one of them belongs to us. Since last night all the reports which I have read have been about the views of various officials, states, governments and Western countries concerning the ships which have recently been hit by [word indistinct]. How is it that when two Saudi ships are attacked, and Saddam, in complete impudence, announces that Iraq has attacked them and confesses that American AWACS had provided him with the intelligence... [sentence left incomplete] The meaning of this confession concerning the AWACS is this — AWACS are flying radar stations. They can see from high up and nothing blocks their view. They see that such and such a ship, with such and such a number, at a given moment is loaded with oil, has left, is in that place, and now is in that place; now go and attack it. This is what American intelligence means for Iraq. America has played a part in it, Kuwait has played a part, Saudi Arabia has played a part; Iraq implemented it, and France was the culprit for supplying Iraq with the aircraft. Apparently, the aircraft flew in the airspace of countries in the southern part of the Persian Gulf. Their shells hit the far side of the ships — they dare not fly from this side. [passage indistinct]

We have nothing new to say. What we say is what we have said before. I would like to say to you, the Iranian nation, that the policy which the world arrogance has chosen is such that if we show any weakness toward it, it would mean that in 2 weeks' time no ship in the Persian Gulf would come toward Khark. This is the meaning of their action; that we should not sell any oil. If we do not sell oil it would mean that we would not be able to buy anything, that we would not be able even to buy bullets; it would mean that we could not import wheat, that we could not import the raw materials for our factories, that we could not import parts needed by our factories. This is what is meant by the Iraqi action. The Iranian nation understands this and is prepared, to the last drop of its blood, and to the very end of the war, to fight to resolve this very dangerous situation. [shouts of: God is great, and other slogans] If they heed this it is fine.

The nations in our neighboring countries should know that the Islamic Republic first and foremost desires security in the Persian Gulf; we have proved this. They should not become partners in the war. They should not enter the war. We know that Kuwait, on behalf of Iraq, is selling hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil per day. We know that Saudi Arabia is selling oil on behalf of Iraq. If they wish to further their disgrace to this limit it would be tantamount to stating that they wish to participate in the war. We call on you not to become partners in this war. We can guarantee your security.

We tell the superpowers: Do not spread rumors about intervention and your presence in the Persian Gulf! If you leave the region strictly alone, we have complete power to safeguard its security and we will guide ships to their ports. But if you intervene I would like to remind you that should the way be opened for the foot of the superpowers and second-rate Western powers to enter the Gulf, we would prepare ourselves for a war throughout the world against the interests of every country that sets foot in the Persian Gulf! [loud cheers] [end recording]

Concluding his second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The only way to solve current problems in the region is for the destiny of the region to be entrusted to the peoples. The best thing the peoples of the region can do is to topple Saddam as quickly as possible so that the region may become tranquil.

Musavi Warns Against Outside Intervention in Gulf

LD201218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The cabinet met this morning, chaired by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. The meeting began with a review of the country's current affairs as well as the region's political developments. Then Minister of Industries Hashemi and Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi reported on the country's

industries. Behzad Nabavi reported on the country's industry and made certain proposals with regard to consumption patterns and long-term industrial plans. The proposals were studied and debated.

The meeting also dealt with reports by the economic and services commissions. Some of the proposals made by the various ministries were approved. At the end of the meeting the prime minister commented on developments in the Persian Gulf, saying:

The world must realize that the Islamic Republic is standing firm on its principles, just like at the beginning of the revolution, that it is not prepared to submit to force. We have repeatedly warned the Persian Gulf states against linking their fate to that of Saddam's. We issue the very same warning now.

Musavi added: We are surprised to hear the claim that U.S. AWACS in Saudi Arabia detected Iranian planes over oil tankers, at a time when these AWACS have failed to detect the Iraqi planes. It appears that these Iraqi aircraft are making use of miraculous covers which the U.S. flying radar planes are unable to discover. Is this not blindness aimed at [word indistinct] the Saddam regime's responsibility as well as that of his supporters in order to create tension in the Persian Gulf?

Mr Musavi then said: Our earnest policy in the Persian Gulf has been stated several times. Any creation of insecurity to the flow of our own oil shall immediately lead to the escalation of this insecurity for all other oil routes. We believe that this logic is comprehensible now to the neighbors supporting Saddam's regime. Commenting on the probability of intervention by other powers, the prime minister said: There is no doubt that the sound of the explosion stemming from such intervention will be heard more clearly in the countries resorting to intervention as well as the countries dependent on them in the region. Our nation and government are prepared to cope with any conflict in the region and the world, although we consider it unlikely that, after being struck down in Lebanon, these powers will embark upon a new adventure in the Persian Gulf. At any rate, our policy is to retaliate against any blow with a stronger blow.

Gulf Foreign Ministers Ignore 'Main Cause' of Crisis

LD191143 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpts] The situation in the Persian Gulf region continues to be at the forefront of world news and has caused deep anxiety in the world's political-economic circles. In this connection most foreign news agencies and mass media are trying to ignore the attacks made by the Iraqi regime on oil tankers and the main cause of lack of security in the Persian Gulf, and are attempting to portray Iran as the cause of the situation created in the Persian Gulf.

In this connection, the foreign ministers of six Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region following their session yesterday condemned Iran, without mentioning Iraq and the continuous and routine attacks by that regime on oil tankers.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,730

LD181755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 May 84

[Communique No 1,730 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Over the past 24 hours there have been engagements and sporadic clashes involving patrols and ambush squads, with exchanges of fire taking place between our stalwart forces and the aggressor Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq on most of the fronts of the imposed war. Defending their positions and opening fire with artillery and air defense weapons, the victorious Islamic combatants on every front gained control over enemy movements and deployments by both infantry and armored units, in some instances halting them, repelling and foiling the Iraqi forces air attacks especially in southern areas. Maintaining their superior firing power over the infidel forces of Saddam, the Islamic defenders set fire to and destroyed their positions and defensive entrenchments, as happened on the Piranshah front, where six Iraqi troops were killed and several observation posts with their occupants destroyed.

Exchanges of fire on the battlefronts yesterday were at their most intense in the regions of (Zeyd), Kushk, Hoseyniyeh and Majnun Island, while on the fronts of Dehloran and the banks of the Arvand Rud the valiant Gendarmerie returned fire on the Saddamists' positions, silencing their fire. In the Dehloran region two vehicles belonging to the Iraqi forces were totally destroyed, and in the Abadan area over eight light and heavy arms emplacements were destroyed and eight Saddamists killed or wounded. Abadan yesterday came under heavy arms fire, with over 20 houses and shops damaged and 1 compatriot injured.

Communique No 1,731

LD191719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 May 84

[Communique No 1,731 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours in the Piranshahr, Hajj 'Umran, and Sar Dasht operational areas, the combatants of Islam opened fire on enemy positions and halted the activities of the engineering equipment and infantry formations of the Saddamist forces. In the Hajj 'Umran operational region, shelling by our artillery units destroyed several observation posts and slit trenches of the enemy, and 15 Iraqi soldiers were killed.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, our fighting forces, while establishing and fortifying their defensive positions and maintaining a watch on enemy positions, opened fire and destroyed five slit trenches and foxholes and one excavator belonging to the mercenaries. A number of the enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

On the southern fronts, exchanges of fire continued, with the heaviest exchanges occurring at the Majnun Islands, (Chazzabah Pass), Hoseyniyeh, and Kushk. Along the banks of the Arvand Rud, our forces opened artillery fire on enemy positions situated west of the river and destroyed one vehicle carrying a 106-mm gun, and six observation posts of the aggressors.

Yesterday, parts of the residential districts of Abadan came under fire by long-range enemy weapons, a result of which 16 houses and shops and 1 school sustained some damage.

Communique No 1,732

LD201728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 84

[Communique No 1,732 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday, exchange of artillery and heavy-weapons fire continued on the northwestern fronts. On the Piranshahr and Hajj 'Umran fronts: While silencing enemy fire, our fighting forces killed more than 10 Iraqi personnel and destroyed an ammunition dump and several emplacements. On the Marivan and Panjwin fronts: The mighty combatants of Islam inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamists, dispatched patrol groups, opened heavy-weapons fire, pinpointed enemy units, and killed or wounded several enemy personnel.

On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts: With the utmost alertness and enjoying complete superiority of firepower, the combatants of Islam defended their positions; dispatched patrol groups to reconnoiter enemy defensive sectors and create observation posts; and brought enemy logistic positions and front lines under fire, which prevented activities by enemy forces and supply vehicles, set parts of enemy defensive positions ablaze, destroyed an ammunition dump and three vehicles, and killed or injured several enemy personnel.

On the southern fronts: Our mighty and resisting combatants continued defending their positions, returned enemy fire, and repelled enemy fire and activities. On those fronts, the aggressor enemy suffered losses and casualties. The intensity of the exchange of fire was greater on the Nahr-e Anvar, (Kazzabi) and the Majnun Island sectors. Enemy losses and casualties on the southern fronts were: a truck, an engineering vehicle, 15 light and heavy weapons emplacements, and several observation posts destroyed; and more than 35 killed or wounded. These losses and casualties were solely in the gendarmerie operational sectors on the other side of the Arvand Rud. [as heard]

One person was martyred and more than (?10) houses and shops were damaged in Abadan yesterday.

Guards Corps, Army Commanders Discuss War Situation

LD191216 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Mashhad, May 19, IRNA — Issues and problems and also situation of war fronts were topics of talks in a joint meeting of commanders of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) from throughout the country and Ground Forces chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic here Friday.

IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust and the commander of IRGC, Mohsen Rezae'i also attended the meeting held in Torqabeh District, near Mashhad, Khorasan Province.

The imam's representative in IRGC Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahallati addressing the commanders urged necessity of unity, adding that if they protect their unity no power could confront them, and they would be victorious as they have been in their war with Iraqi forces.

19 Guards Killed in Sistan va Baluchestan

LD191212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Committee's Central Staff Command announces:

Nineteen of our brother guards from this committee who were engaged in day-and-night efforts to confront smugglers and the merchants of death in the Sistan va Baluchestan region were martyred during an engagement by the agents and lackeys of global arrogance and those who hatched this sinister imperialist plot.

The Islamic Revolution Committee, while expressing felicitations and condolences for the martyrdom of these Islamic combatants by the hand of desperados and agents of the international smugglers, announces that the funeral of these dear ones will be held in Zahedan tomorrow coinciding with the auspicious anniversary of the birthday of the holy twelfth imam — may God Almighty hasten his noble return.